Ground Water Pollution

4375. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any locations in the country have been identified as having contaminated ground water caused due to industrial pollution; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board has monitored ground water in some of the industrial areas in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The results of analysis have shown contamination in areas around industrial centres.

Pollution of Desang river

4376. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to regular discharge of prohibited chemicals and garbage by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Namrup in Assam; the Desang river has been greatly polluted and inspite of repeated warnings by the public Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation authorities are still committing this nuisance;

(b) whether Government will send a team to have an on the spot study of-this nuisance;

(c) whether Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation authorities have complied with the earlier directions of the Government; and

(d) if not, whether any stringent action would be taken against the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (d) The pollution level in the effluent from Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Namrup is monitored by the Assam Pollution Control Board. The unit has been studied by the Central Pollution system for treating waste water containing pollutants like arsenic and Chromium, an Ion exchange unit for treating waste water containing ammonical nitrogen has also been provided, which needs to be upgraded. The units has been given time by the Assam Pollution Control Board till December, 1993, to comply with the prescribed standards.

Pending projects for clearance from Kerala

4377. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of different projects pending with the Central Government for environmental clearance from the State of Kerala; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision on those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) and (b) Only two projects from the State of Kerala await environmental clearance and their status of consideration is as below:

1. Proposal for construction of Fish landing centre at Punnapra was referred to the Ministry in April, '92 and has already been examined and processed.

2. Proposal for extension of Ernakulam Wharf by 123.2 meter has been received only on 27th July, 1992.